



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1866

JUL 31 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL -
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Alfred May, President
Hercules Machine
550 West John Street
Hicksville, NY 11801

Re: Request for Information Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e), Related to the New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination Superfund Site in the Towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay in Nassau County, New York

Dear Sir:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is charged with responding to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants into the environment and with enforcement responsibilities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675. EPA has documented the release and threat of release of hazardous substances into the environment at the New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination Superfund Site located in the Towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay in Nassau County, New York (the "Site"). A Site Description and a Site Location Map are enclosed. On September 16, 2011, the Site was listed on the "National Priorities List" of hazardous substance releases that has been established pursuant to CERCLA. In response to these releases and the threat of future releases, EPA has spent public funds and EPA anticipates spending additional public funds for the Site.

The Site comprises a widespread area of ground water contamination in the Towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay. The Site is located in a heavily developed area consisting of industrial, commercial, and residential land where a variety of past industrial and commercial activities may have contributed to ground water contamination. Prior to the Site's inclusion on the National Priorities List, an EPA investigation revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds ("VOCs") including, but not limited to, tetrachloroethylene ("PCE") and trichloroethylene ("TCE") above state and federal drinking water standards in influent water in the following public water supply wells: four Town of Hempstead wells (Bowling Green 1 and 2, Roosevelt Field 10 and Levittown 2A), six Hicksville wells (4-2, 5-2, 5-3, 8-1, 8-3 and 9-3) and Westbury Water District Well 11. The aquifers underlying the Site serve as drinking water for the public water systems in the Towns of North Hempstead, Hempstead and Oyster Bay.

241144



New Cassel and Hicksville

New York

EPA ID#: NY0001095363

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 05

Nassau

Southern end of Iris Place

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 3/10/2011

Final Date: 9/16/2011

Site Description

EPA listed the New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination Site (Site) on the National Priorities List (NPL) of sites eligible for long-term remedial action financed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, more commonly known as Superfund, on September 16, 2011. The Site is considered to be an area of widespread groundwater contamination within the Towns of North Hempstead, Hempstead and Oyster Bay in Nassau County, New York.

In 2010, EPA collected groundwater samples from raw (pre-treated) water from multiple public supply wells (PSWs) in central Nassau County and analyzed the raw water samples to determine whether volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were present above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). VOCs are contaminants that evaporate easily into the air and dissolve in water. The MCL is a federal standard for drinking water quality that is a legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA's 2010 analytical results determined that there were VOCs above the MCL in the raw water in four Town of Hempstead wells (Bowling Green 1 and 2, Roosevelt Field 10, and Levittown 2A), six Hicksville wells (4-2, 5-2, 5-3, 8-1, 8-3, and 9-3) and Westbury Water District Well 11.

Threat and Contaminants

The primary contaminants of concern for the Site are tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE) and other VOCs. VOCs are often used as ingredients in paints, solvents, aerosol sprays, cleaners, disinfectants, automotive products and dry cleaning fluids. While no individual sources were identified in EPA's March 2011 Hazard Ranking System listing package for inclusion on the NPL, it is believed that past industrial and commercial activities in the area may have contributed the ground water contamination at the Site.

To date, the New York State Department of Environmental Contamination (NYSDEC) has evaluated 17 individual sites within the New Cassel Industrial Area (NCIA), located in the Town of North Hempstead, which are listed on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in New York State. Responsible parties for these NCIA sites have implemented remedial actions associated with VOC contamination in soils and on-site groundwater. These sites remain under NYSDEC's oversight.

Within the Town of Hempstead, two public supply wells, Bowling Green Well 1 and 2, located approximately 1,500 feet downgradient of the NCIA were found to have TCE and PCE in raw water above the MCL. Raw groundwater pulled from these wells is treated prior to distribution to a population of more than 8,000 people.

During EPA's 2010 pre-NPL sampling, a public supply well field in Hicksville, which is in the Town of Oyster Bay, was found to have exceedances of PCE and TCE above the MCL in the raw ground water. Water from the Hicksville PSWs is treated prior to distribution to a population of more than 24,000 people.

Concentrations of VOCs above the MCL were also found in Hicksville Well 9-3, Hicksville Well 8-3, Hicksville Well 8-1, Hicksville Well 4-2, Hempstead-Levittown Well 2A, Hempstead-Roosevelt Field Well 10, and Westbury Well 11. The PSWs are tested regularly for water quality prior to distribution to the public and continues to meet federal and state water quality standards.

Cleanup Approach

EPA will be addressing the Site in discrete phases or components known as operable units or OUs. An operable unit

represents a portion of the Site remedy that for technical or administrative purposes can be addressed separately to eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from Site contamination. EPA anticipates that there will be multiple OUs for the Site, and subsequent Proposed Plans and Records of Decision (RODs) will address groundwater contamination at other OUs at the Site.

The first operable unit at the Site, OU1, addresses a portion of the contaminated groundwater downgradient of the NCIA. In the summer of 2013, EPA expects to release a proposed plan, which discusses the remedial alternatives considered and identifies EPA's proposed remedial alternative with the rationale for EPA's preference to address OU1.

EPA will subsequently conduct remedial investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination in other operable units. Subsequent operable units will include, but may not be limited to, the areas downgradient of OU1, the Sylvania and the General Instruments sites in Hicksville, as well as areas impacting Hicksville PSWs 4-2, 8-1, 8-3, 0-3 and Hempstead-Levittown 2A.

Cleanup Progress

The New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination Site was added to the National Priorities List on September 16, 2011.

OU1: In the summer of 2013, EPA will be issuing a proposed plan, which identifies the remedial alternatives considered and EPA's proposed remedial alternative with the rationale for EPA's preference. Once the proposed plan is released, a 30-day public comment period will begin. EPA will also hold a public meeting to answer questions and allow community members to comment on the proposed remedial alternatives for the Site's OU1. After the close of the 30-day comment period and consideration of comments, EPA will issue a Record of Decision for OU1 which determines the remedial action to be performed.

Site Repositories

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, Superfund Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866

Contact: Jennifer LaPoma, EPA Remedial Project Manager at 212-637-4328 or LaPoma.Jennifer@epa.gov or Cecilia Echols, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at 212-637-3678 or Echols.Cecilia@epa.gov



SOURCES:

- National Geographic TOPOI U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS). 7-5 Minute Series (Topographic) Quadrangles: Amityville, NY 1992; Freeport, NY 1994; Hicksville, NY 1992; and Huntington, NY 1992.
- Weston Solutions, Inc. Region 5 Start-3, Site Logbooks 996-4E-AHSW (New Cassel Industrial Area) and 1144-4E-AHSX (Hicksville Contaminated Groundwater Area), August 2010.

PROJECT:
New Cassel/Hicksville GW Contamination

CLIENT NAME:
EPA

TITLE:

Figure 1 - Site Location Map
New Cassel/Hicksville GW Contamination
Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay
Nassau County, NY

WESTON
SOLUTIONS

DATE:
January 2011

FIGURE #:
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